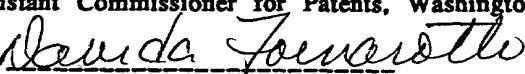


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE FORM PTO-1390 (Modified) (REV 11-98)		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER PD980069	
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371		U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR 097830104	
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP99/07978	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 21 October 1999 (21.10.99)	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 02 November 1998 (02.11.98)	
TITLE OF INVENTION SYSTEM FOR STORING AND TRANSMITTING HOME NETWORK SYSTEM DATA			
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Ernst F. Schroeder			
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1). <input type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210), attached to Item 13 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409). <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)). 			
Items 13 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. with references attached <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail 20 Return postcard receipt 			
Other Information: <u>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.10</u> <u>EL682442057US</u> <u>April 23, 2001</u> "Express Mail" mailing no. Date of Deposit			
I hereby certify that this application is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231. DAVIDA FORNAROTTO Typed or printed name of person mailing application			
 Signature of person mailing application			

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR 1.137(a))	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
09/830104	PCT/EP99/07978	PD980069

21. The following fees are submitted:

BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) :

- Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1000.00
- International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$860.00
- International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$710.00
- International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$690.00
- International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00

CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY**ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =**

860.00

Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)).

 20 30

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE
Total claims	7 - 20 =	0	x \$18.00
Independent claims	1 - 3 =	0	x \$80.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable).			
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS			= 860.00

Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28) (check if applicable).

SUBTOTAL = 860.00

Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (f)).

 20 30**TOTAL NATIONAL FEE = 860.00**

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) (check if applicable).

TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED = 860.00

Amount to be: refunded	\$
charged	\$ 860.00

- A check in the amount of to cover the above fees is enclosed.
- Please charge my Deposit Account No. 07-0832 in the amount of \$860.00 to cover the above fees.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-0832 A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Mr. Joseph S. Tripoli
THOMSON multimedia Licensing Inc.
Patent Department
PO Box 5312
Princeton, New Jersey 08540

PCT INITIAL PROCESSING

APR 25 2001



SIGNATURE

Paul P. Kiel

NAME

40,677

REGISTRATION NUMBER

April 23, 2001

DATE

RECEIVED

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Ernst F. Schroeder

Filed : Herewith

For : SYSTEM FOR STORING AND TRANSMITTING HOME
NETWORK SYSTEM DATA (amended by Preliminary
Amendment)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In the US national phase application of PCT/EP99/07978 filed
herewith, please enter the following amendments:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows: A marked up version of the
amended specification is attached herewith:

Page 1, lines 1-2, delete the title "SYSTEM HAVING A PLURALITY
OF DEVICES CONNECTED TO ONE ANOTHER VIA A DIGITAL INTERFACE"
and insert -- SYSTEM FOR STORING AND TRANSMITTING HOME NETWORK
SYSTEM DATA --.

On Page 1, immediately after the title, insert the following paragraph:

-- This application claims the benefit of German application serial no. 19850574.4 filed November 2, 1998, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference, and which claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 365 of International Application PCT/EP99/07978, filed October 21, 1999, which was published in accordance with PCT Article 21(2) on May 11, 2000 in English.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace pending the claims with the following amended claims.
A marked up version of the amended claims are attached herewith:

- 1.(AMENDED) System having a plurality of devices connected to one another via a bus interface, in particular an IEEE 1394 bus interface, wherein one of the devices contains a control unit which, when operated appropriately by a user, polls system data for other devices in this system via the interface, wherein said system data comprises characteristic data for a device, e.g. a serial number, the manufacturer's mark, the device class, output and/or input characteristics, the software version and/or any error data and passes this system data to an output unit of this one device, the output unit being either a device for writing to a mobile, digital data medium which can store the system data or the output unit being a modem or another telecommunication connection which, when operated appropriately by a user, can send the system data to a desired address.
2. System according to Claim 1, wherein the mobile data medium is a smart card or a chip card having a memory, and in that, when operated appropriately by a user, the control unit in this one device stores system data for the connected other devices on the smart card or the chip card using the device.
3. System according to Claim 1, wherein this one device having the device for writing to the data medium is a set-top box or a digital satellite receiver having a write/read device for a chip card or a smart card.

4. System according to Claim 1, wherein this one device having the device for writing to the data medium is a minicomputer having a drive for a floppy disk or another data medium having a magnetic or optical storage medium.
5. Device for a system according to Claim 1, wherein this one device contains a control unit which, when operated appropriately by a user, polls system data for the connected other devices via an interface wherein this one device includes a device for writing to a mobile, digital data medium and wherein the device stores this system data on the data medium using the device.
6. Device for a system according to Claim 1, wherein this one device contains a control unit which, when operated appropriately by a user, or when an appropriate remote polling code is received, polls system data for the connected other devices via an interface wherein this one device includes a modem or another telecommunication connection which can send the polled system data to a desired address.
7. Device according to Claim 6, wherein user operation corresponds to remote control in the context of a remote polling code transmitted via communication line or by radio.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please add the following Abstract.

-- The invention specifies a system having a plurality of devices which are connected to one another via an IEEE 1394 interface and one of which contains a control unit which, when operated appropriately by a user, polls system data for devices in this system via the interface and passes this system data to an output unit of this device. The device having the output unit is, by way of example, a set-top box having a microprocessor which a user uses to poll system data for the devices, which contains, in particular the input and output characteristics of the latter, via the interface and which the user can use to store this system data on a smart card by means of a write/read device. Alternatively or at the same time, the system data can

be shown on a display or transmitted to a desired address via a modem connection. As a result, the user of the system can receive expert advice from a specialist dealer or a customer service point regarding which devices he can best add to his system; or if a point of failure or faults arise.--

REMARKS

The title has been amended to conform with the translated title of the published application (WO 00/27127).

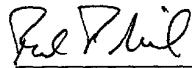
The specification has been amended to include a reference to the priority applications.

The claims have been amended to remove reference indicia.

To meet the requirements of the United States, the Abstract (as originally filed in the PCT application) is added.

No fee is believed to have been incurred by virtue of this amendment. However if a fee is incurred on the basis of this amendment, please charge such fee against deposit account 07-0832

Respectfully submitted,
Ernst F. Schroeder



Paul P. Kiel
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 40,677
609/734-9650

THOMSON multimedia Licensing Inc.
Patent Operation
PO Box 5312
Princeton, NJ 08543-5312

April 23, 2001

MARKED UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED SPECIFICATION

Page 1, lines 1-2, delete the title "SYSTEM HAVING A PLURALITY OF DEVICES CONNECTED TO ONE ANOTHER VIA A DIGITAL INTERFACE" and insert -- SYSTEM FOR STORING AND TRANSMITTING HOME NETWORK SYSTEM DATA --.

On Page 1, immediately after the title, insert the following paragraph:

-- This application claims the benefit of German application serial no. 19850574.4 filed November 2, 1998, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference, and which claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 365 of International Application PCT/EP99/07978, filed October 21, 1999, which was published in accordance with PCT Article 21(2) on May 11, 2000 in English.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims (which are the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report), as follows. A marked up version of the amended claims are attached herewith:

1.(AMENDED) System having a plurality of devices connected to one another via a bus interface, in particular an IEEE 1394 bus interface, wherein one of the devices [(3)] contains a control unit [(11)] which, when operated appropriately by a user, polls system data for other devices [(2,4-7)] in this system via the interface [(1)], wherein said system data comprises characteristic data for a device [(2, 4-7)], e.g. a serial number, the manufacturer's mark, the device class, output and/or input characteristics, the software version and/or any error data and passes this system data to an output unit [(9, 13, 14)] of this one device [(3), characterized in that], the output unit [(9, 13, 14) is] being either a device [(9)] for writing to a mobile, digital data medium [(10)] which can store the system data or [that] the output unit [(9, 13, 14) is] being a modem or another telecommunication connection [(14)] which, when operated appropriately by a user, can send the system data to a desired address.

2.(AMENDED) System according to Claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the mobile data medium [(10)] is a smart card or a chip card having a memory, and in that, when operated appropriately by a user, the control unit [(11)] in this one device [(3)] stores system data for the connected other devices [(2,4-7)] on the smart card or the chip card [(10)] using the device [(9)].

3.(AMENDED) System according to Claim 1 [or 2, characterized in that], wherein this one device [(3)] having the device [(9)] for writing to the data medium [(10)] is a set-top box or a digital satellite receiver having a write/read device for a chip card or a smart card.

4.(AMENDED) System according to Claim 1 [or 2, characterized in that], wherein this one device [(3)] having the device [(9)] for writing to the data medium [(10)] is a minicomputer having a drive for a floppy disk or another data medium having a magnetic or optical storage medium.

5.(AMENDED) Device for a system according to [one of the Claims 1 – 4] Claim 1, wherein this one device [(3)] contains a control unit [(11)] which, when operated appropriately by a user, polls system data for the connected other devices [(2,4-7)] via an interface [(1), characterized in that] wherein this one device includes a device [(9)] for writing to a mobile, digital data medium and wherein the device stores this system data on the data medium [(10)] using the device [(9)].

6.(AMENDED) Device for a system according to [one of the Claims 1 – 4] Claim 1, wherein this one device [(3)] contains a control unit [(11)] which, when operated appropriately by a user, or when an appropriate remote polling code is received, polls system data for the connected other devices [(2,4-7)] via an interface [(1), characterized in that] wherein this one device [(3)] includes a modem or another telecommunication connection [(14)] which can send the polled system data to a desired address.

7.(AMENDED) Device according to Claim 6, [characterized in that] wherein user operation corresponds to remote control in the context of a remote polling code transmitted via communication line or by radio.

SYSTEM FOR STORING AND TRANSMITTING HOME NETWORK SYSTEM DATA.

The invention relates to a system having a plurality of
5 devices connected to one another via digital interfaces.
Furthermore, the invention relates to a device for
writing to a mobile data medium for use in the system and
to a mobile data medium for use in the system.

10 Prior art

The invention is based on a system having a plurality of
devices connected to one another via an IEEE 1394
interface. Devices of this type are known for home
applications, for example, and it is expected that these
15 devices will become established on the market as mass-
produced products in connection with digital television
and digital recording methods.

Entertainment electronics devices are produced by many
20 manufacturers in a great variety of design forms widely
ranging in quality and price. Hence, users frequently
combine devices from different manufacturers for a music
and/or video system. What they often do not know,
however, is which devices go together best or whether the
25 devices are completely compatible with one another.

The digital interface IEEE 1394, also called "Firewire",
connects the devices to form a system via which, for
example, video data, audio data or system data is
30 transmitted. This system is able, amongst other things,
to configure itself when additional devices are
connected, even during continuous operation (hot
plugging). When a new device is connected to the IEEE
1394 interface, a reset is triggered, irrespective of the
35 particular state of the interface. After the reset, the
structure of the interface is determined again and
physical addresses are allocated for the purpose of self-
identification.

- As a result, however, a user no longer has direct access to the configuration data, as this is generated internally. It is, of course, possible to show or print this configuration data, for example using a PC, but a 5 user will frequently not know the configuration of his system precisely. Hence, he will not know what device supplements his system best if he wishes to add a further device.
- 10 Digital video devices having an IEEE 1394 interface are already known. Minicomputers (PC or laptop) can also have this interface fitted. An insight into the way in which the IEEE 1394 interface works and possibilities for its use is given in the brochure SPECSinternational, Vol. 10, 15 No 4, July/August 1998 from Cable Television Laboratories, Inc., Louisville, USA. For the interface itself, the standard IEEE Std 1394-1995 was created, entitled "IEEE Standard for a High Performance Serial Bus", IEEE 1996.
- 20
- Invention
- The object of the present invention, therefore, is to specify a system of the type mentioned above which gives a user the option of adding further devices to the system 25 without difficulty.
- This object is achieved by the features of the invention which are specified in Claim 1. Advantageous developments of the system and devices in the system are specified in 30 the further claims.
- With the system according to the invention, a user can poll the system data for devices in this system via the IEEE 1394 interface using a control unit arranged in one 35 of the devices, and can pass this system data to an output unit of this device. The output unit is, by way of example, a device for writing to a mobile, digital data medium which stores the system data. The system data for

a device contains, in particular, the input and output characteristics of the latter. As a result, the user can take the data medium with its system values to a specialist dealer or technical customer service point and hence receive very specific advice about his home system.

Instead of storing the system data on a digital data medium, it is alternatively also possible to transmit the system data via a modem or other analogue or digital telecommunication connection to an appropriate specialist dealer or customer service point, or to show it on a display, so that the owner can take note of it. A further advantage is that this system data can locate or at least isolate a point of failure or malfunction, so that these faults can be eliminated more quickly. In complex digital systems having a plurality of devices, it is frequently difficult to locate malfunctions or associate them with a particular device.

One of these devices contains, in particular, a control unit which, when operated appropriately by a user, polls relevant system data for connected devices via the interface and uses a device to store this system data on the data medium. Data media can be, in particular, a smart card or a chip card having a semiconductor memory. A suitable central device which can be used to retrieve and store the system data is, in particular, a set-top box or a digital satellite receiver, some of which are already equipped with write/read devices for a smart card.

Alternatively, a minicomputer, such as a PC or laptop, which can likewise be connected to the IEEE 1394 interface can also be used, however, so that the system data can be stored on a floppy disk, for example. Relevant system data and characteristic data for a device used in the system are, in particular, serial number,

manufacturer's mark, input and output characteristics, device class, software version and/or any error data.

Drawings

5 The invention is explained in more detail below by way of example and with the aid of a schematic drawing, in which:

10 Figure 1 shows a system having entertainment electronics devices connected to one another via an IEEE 1394 interface.

Detailed description of the invention

15 The system shown in the figure contains audio and video devices from the field of consumer electronics, which are connected to one another via an IEEE 1394 interface 1. In this case, a television set 2 is connected to a set-top box 3 by means of this interface 1 and to a digital camcorder 5 via an A/V amplifier 4. Other devices in this 20 system are a CD player 6 and a tuner 7. The loudspeakers 8 are connected to the A/V amplifier 4.

The set-top box 3 contains a device 9 for reading and writing to a mobile digital data medium 10; in this 25 illustrative example, the device 9 is a smart-card reader for a corresponding smart card having a non-volatile memory. The set-top box 3 also contains a control unit 11, for example a microprocessor, which can be used by a user of the set-top box to retrieve system data from all 30 devices or from individual devices in this system via the interface 1. A set-top box is suitable for this since it already has a device 9 for writing to a smart card 10 anyway. The control unit 11 can be instructed [lacuna] keypad arranged above another set-top box 3, for example.

35

Alternatively, other devices in the system can also be used for storing the system data, for example the A/V amplifier 4 if it has a write/read device for a suitable

chip card, or a digital satellite receiver if it is used instead of the set-top box 3.

If a user has stored his system data on the data medium 5 10, he can take this system data to a specialist dealer or to a customer service point, where it is read and the user can then be advised. If the user also wishes to buy a digital video recorder 12, for example, in order to transfer video recordings from the digital video 10 camcorder 5, the specialist dealer can read out the system data on the data medium 10 and recommend to the customer a device matching the performance of the digital camcorder 5. Similarly, the user can be advised by a specialist dealer in the event of system faults, provided 15 that system data can still be retrieved and stored on the data medium 10 via the interface 1.

The interface 1 also allows the devices in the system to be installed in different rooms, for example the digital 20 camcorder 5 and the digital video recorder 12 can be installed in a work room and the other devices in the audio and video system 2 - 4, 6, 7 can be installed in a living room. Using the set-top box 3 and the control unit 11, the user can, in this case, too, ascertain the status 25 of all connected devices at any time, or can monitor which devices are connected. In addition, a minicomputer in the work room can also be connected to the system via an IEEE 1394 interface, so that this computer can also retrieve the system data for the devices 2 - 7 and store 30 it on a floppy disk, for example.

The invention has been explained using the example of a system of a plurality of devices connected to one another via the IEEE 1394 bus. Hence, it is expressly pointed out 35 that the invention can also be used when a plurality of devices are connected using other communication bus systems. Examples are the USB, CAN, Interbus, Ethernet, IBM Token Ring etc. bus systems.

Alternatively or in addition, the device having the control unit 11, the set-top box 3 in this illustrative example, can have a display 13 which can show the polled system data when an appropriate command is given. A further refinement of the invention is for the polled system data to be transmitted to a desired address, for example to a specialist dealer or a customer service point, via an available modem connection 14 when an appropriate user command is given.

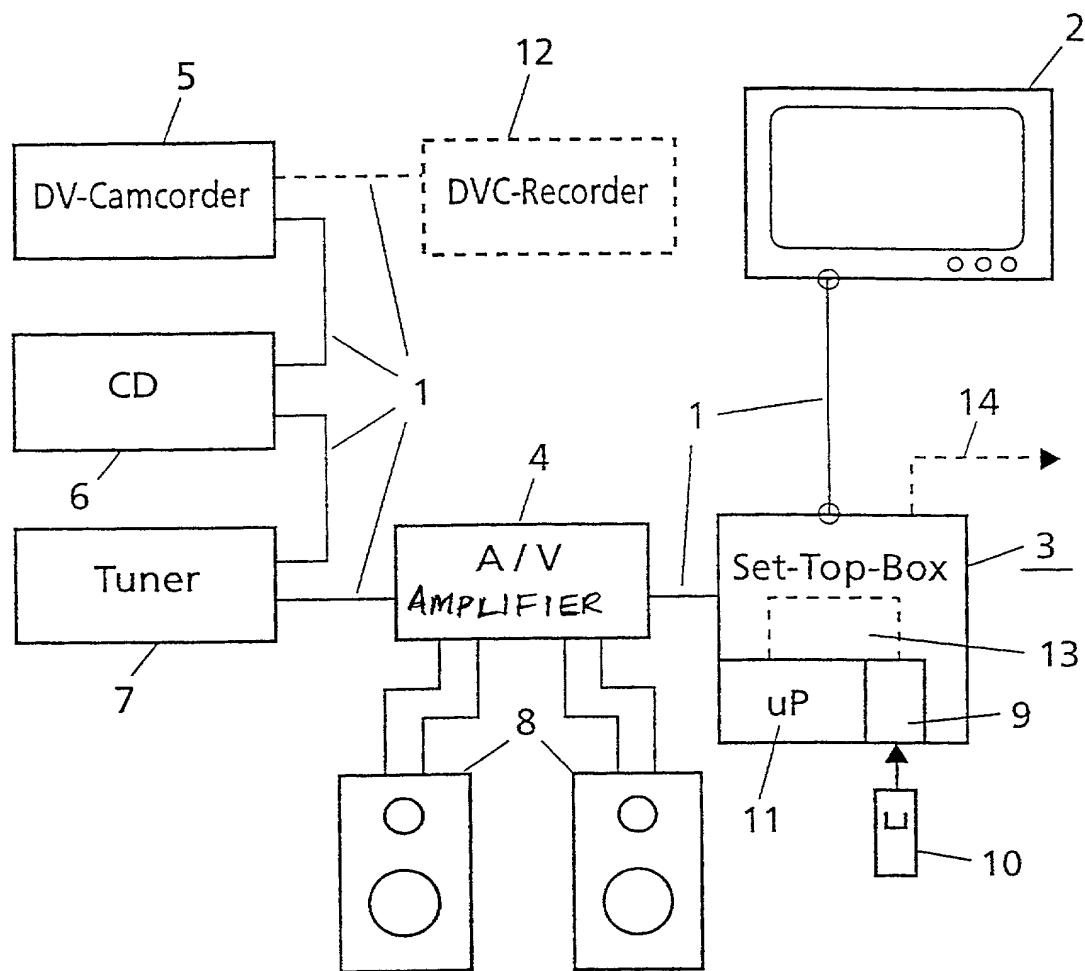
Patent Claims

1. System having a plurality of devices connected to one another via a bus interface, in particular an IEEE 1394 bus interface, wherein one of the devices (3) contains a control unit (11) which, when operated appropriately by a user, polls system data for other devices (2,4-7) in this system via the interface (1), wherein said system data comprises characteristic data for a device (2, 4-7), e.g. a serial number, the manufacturer's mark, the device class, output and/or input characteristics, the software version and/or any error data and passes this system data to an output unit (9, 13, 14) of this one device (3), characterized in that, the output unit (9, 13, 14) is either a device (9) for writing to a mobile, digital data medium (10) which can store the system data or that the output unit (9, 13, 14) is a modem or another telecommunication connection (14) which, when operated appropriately by a user, can send the system data to a desired address.
2. System according to Claim 1, characterized in that the mobile data medium (10) is a smart card or a chip card having a memory, and in that, when operated appropriately by a user, the control unit (11) in this one device (3) stores system data for the connected other devices (2,4-7) on the smart card or the chip card (10) using the device (9).
3. System according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that this one device (3) having the device (9) for writing to the data medium (10) is a set-top box or a digital satellite receiver having a write/read device for a chip card or a smart card.
4. System according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that this one device (3) having the device (9) for writing to the data medium (10) is a minicomputer having a drive for a floppy disk or another data medium having a magnetic or optical storage medium.
5. Device for a system according to one of the Claims 1 - 4, wherein this one device (3) contains a control unit (11) which, when operated appropriately by a user, polls system data for the connected other devices (2,4-7) via an interface (1), characterized in that this one device includes a device (9) for writing to a mobile, digital data medium and wherein the device stores this system data on the data medium (10) using the device (9).

-2-

6. Device for a system according to one of the Claims 1 - 4, wherein this one device (3) contains a control unit (11) which, when operated appropriately by a user, or when an appropriate remote polling code is received, polls system data for the connected other devices (2, 4- 7) via an interface (1), characterized in that this one device (3) includes a modem or another telecommunication connection (14) which can send the polled system data to a desired address.
- 10 7. Device according to Claim 6, characterized in that user operation corresponds to remote control in the context of a remote polling code transmitted via communication line or by radio.

15

**Fig.1**

EXPRESS MAIL EL 68244Z05705

- 1 -

PD980069

DECLARATION FOR UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION,
POWER OF ATTORNEY, DESIGNATION OF CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name, and that I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

SYSTEM FOR STORING AND TRANSMITTING HOME NETWORK SYSTEM DATA

the specification of which

(CHECK ONE) is attached hereto.
 was filed on October 21, 1999, Application Serial. No. PCT/EP 99/07978
and was amended on .

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 USC 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent, utility model, design or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application(s) on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Claimed	
Number	Country	Date Filed	Yes	No
198 50 574.4	DE	November 02, 1998	xx	

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 USC 120 of any US Application(s) listed below, and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this Application is not disclosed in the prior US application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 USC 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56(a).

Serial No.: **Filed:** _____

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under of 18 USC 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

I hereby appoint the following attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: Joseph S. Tripoli (Reg. No. 26,040) Telephone: (609) 734-9443.

Address all correspondence to Joseph S. Tripoli, Patent Operations - Thomson multimedia Licensing, Inc. - CN 5312 - Princeton, New Jersey 08543-0028.

Signature: John X. Gaskins Date: 17 day of February, 2001.

Sole or First Joint Inventor—Ernst F. Schröder

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